

COUNTY REPORT

# Workmen's Compensation Plan Saves \$8 Million

By BURTON W. CHACE  
County Supervisor

Opportunities to save \$8 to \$10 million without any cutbacks in service don't present themselves to the Board of Supervisors very often.

But such a proposal, obscured by the cumbersome label of "self-insurance of workmen's compensation liability," did come before the board last week and was approved — on my motion and carrying my full support.

Passage of this plan means the county will save \$4½ million next year, between \$8 and \$10 million in the next 10 years, and \$1 million annually after that. You just don't pass up a savings like this.

And, so far as I can determine, there is no catch.

THE SAVINGS will result when the county cancels its present insurance program, which covers its liability for job-related injuries and illnesses suffered by county employes.

This insurance would have cost us \$13 million in the fiscal year 1969-70, and experts advise us the county can insure itself for about \$8½ or \$9 million; thus the savings.

The program will not, as one employe group contends, achieve the great savings by cutting down on workers' benefits. The savings results from keeping the funds within the county's control so investments can be made.

THE COUNTY — not the insurance company — will then realize the dividends from the investments.

Employees have been assured that the program will have no bad effects on their benefits. Frankly, I believe the county will do a better job servicing the employe claims than has been done in the past.

It is the board's desire to cut down on the number of cases which go to litigation, and this will result in the saving of attorney's fees for employes.

It is clearly the board's intention to conduct this program in good faith with the employe. The county can do this and realize a savings to the taxpayer, too.

A YEARLY report will keep us advised of any areas which might call for improvement.

Self-insurance programs such as this have long been operated by the city of Los Angeles, the city and county of San Francisco, Long Beach, and other agencies large enough to do so.

In Long Beach, for example, the city showed a \$500,000 savings in the first year alone, and the program has the support of many employe organizations in that city, according to testimony presented to the board.

SPEAKING of savings, tax-

## Newsman Gets Post With Hahn

Former newsman Robert Bush has been named to a position on the staff of Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.

Bush, who replaces Phil Pennington, leaves a position as editor of Plane & Pilot and Airways magazines to join Hahn's staff. His principle assignment will involve close work with communications media in Hahn's Second District.

Pennington has transferred to the county's Chief Administrative Office, Hahn noted.

Bush formerly was employed as a reporter with The News-Advertiser Group published by Rodgers & McDonald Publishers, Inc. That firm is the parent firm of the Press-Herald and Harbor Mail. Bush began his newspaper career as a copyboy for the Los Angeles Times.

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payers were saved a quarter of a million dollars during this past year in the County Health Department.

This huge asset was contributed by 2,500 volunteers who offered their services free in 50 district health centers and sub-centers. These dedicated people worked in all types of jobs, donating more than 140,000 hours during 1968.

Without this volunteer help, the Health Department would have required 60 additional clinic nurses, amounting to a salary of at least \$225,000.

IN ADDITION to helping in clinics, volunteer aides also may work in the business office, keep records, handle mailing and correspondence, and even work in the mobile TB X-ray units. Potential volunteers may call their local district health center.

leave them alone during the day. To close this shortage gap, a new volunteer program using El Camino College students in the social services curriculum was instituted this year.

College credit was given to 45 of the 60 students who completed the program. The recruiting approach was considered highly successful and may in the future be incorporated as a permanent project.

(Advertisement)

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